Quarterly Task Order Progress Report
Continuation of the Europe and Eurasia
Regional Networking and Innovative
Practices Project – Phase III
LOGIN – Local Government Information Network

Prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development
For the period July 1, 2003 – September 30, 2003

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Continuation of the Europe and Eurasia Regional Networking and Innovative Practices Project – Phase III

USAID Quarterly Report 3

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Introduction

ICMA began building the Local Government Information Network in 1999. Five donor organizations currently form the LOGIN Steering Committee, which makes key policy decisions on the project. The Steering Committee also established and supports an administrative structure for the project including staffing for project development and management. The donors include the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank Institute, the Open Society Institute (OSI), and its Local Government Institute (LGI) component, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

LOGIN's mission is to create a knowledge- and experience-based information network for local government in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union. One of the primary objectives is to improve the capacity and professionalism of local government through the exchange of information and experience and through the coordination of activities for reform. This mission and objective closely parallel ICMA's own mission statement: "to enhance the quality of local government and to support and assist professional local administrators in the United States and other countries."

Major Accomplishments

During this quarter, the major accomplishments for the LOGIN have been:

- Provided ongoing support for the following new features / modules on the LOGIN system for use by all national partner / anchor sites:
    ~ Combined List serve / message board
    ~ E-Newsletter creation tool
    ~ Advanced search function
    ~ Web site traffic monitoring
    ~ WYSIWYG Editor (ability to modify text for Web layout; i.e. bold, italic, headings, and other highlights)
    ~ Usage reports (Web Trends™) for LOGIN components of individual national partner / anchor sites and the 'About LOGIN' site at http://logincee.org

- Developed specifications for a multilingual, online, interactive training and distance education tool.
- Solicited feedback from anchor organizations regarding distance education tool design
- Modified the "Other Web Sites" tool to include categories for easier organization
- Programmed ability to include attachments with calendar items
- Developed specifications for an online survey tool
- Continued work on integration of Macedonian national partner / anchor site
- Continued to pursue integration of Council of Europe database into the LOGIN online library
- Provided ongoing technical support and troubleshooting for all of the national partner / anchor sites

- Provided ongoing support and advice to national partner / anchors regarding marketing of the LOGIN information network to a target audience of local government officials
- Provided technical support and trouble shooting to anchors in their use of the newly modified administrative interface

Challenges/Remedial Actions Taken

There have been no significant challenges to the project during this quarter.

Projected Activities

During the next quarter, project activities will focus on:

- Complete integration of Romanian national partner / anchor site.
- Complete integration of Macedonian national partner / anchor site.
- Complete integration of Council of Europe database
- Coordinate training session for overview of new administrative interface and to bring new national partners / anchor sites into the LOGIN team
- Complete programming for an online survey tool for use by national partner / anchor sites.
- Complete design, programming, and implementation of a distance learning tool for the LOGIN system
- Create a LOGIN Sponsors area that would support advertising and promotion opportunities.